

# Rocket Fuel Beetles, Fire Breathing Dragons & The Meaning of Life

## IN THE BEGINNING:<sup>i</sup>

In the beginning, God created the Heavens and the Earth<sup>ii</sup> (and the rest was as easy as pie). This – the first verse in the Bible – doesn't really include, 'the rest was as easy as pie.' In reality, however, it was easier for God to create the universe (including 100 billion galaxies<sup>iii</sup>) than it would be for one of us to make a pie (if we had everything which was needed). All God needs to do to create something out of nothing,<sup>iv</sup> is to say, "Let there be . . ." <sup>v</sup>

If anyone finds this – the first verse of the Bible – hard to believe (or any of the 'easier' miracles which come after it), it is the result of limited knowledge and/or a lack of faith. This website can help immensely with both.

## AMAZING CREATURES:<sup>vi</sup>

After God created the earth, He filled it with an enormous number of amazing creatures. Some of them, having more atypical attributes than others, cause us to stop and notice. Below is a list of some of the more unusual ones.

[These creatures can be viewed on Youtube, read about on Wikipedia and further studied in many other places on the internet. Unfortunately, the internet is to a very great extent, under the control of people who are in rebellion against God<sup>vii</sup> and, therefore, will not present the truth regarding a vast number of important issues; in this case, the origin of the universe and these creatures.<sup>viii</sup>]

Electric-Eels can produce up to 860 volts of electricity, which they use to stun predators or prey.

Archer Fish accurately shoot streams of water – out of their mouths and into the air – knocking bugs off of plants, etc. and into the water. The bugs are then eaten by the archer fish.

Pistol Shrimp snap their claws so fast that it creates a bubble under water. The bubble – which can be aimed at predator or prey – collapses under the water pressure, causing a thermal reaction equal to the temperature of the sun. Scientists refer to these as “weaponized bubbles.”

Peacock Mantis Shrimp have a striking device on the front of their bodies with which they strike their prey – faster than a bullet. The strike is so fast that water around it boils and the phenomenon produces light.

Decoy Building Spiders gather debris from the surrounding area and attach it to their webs – in the shape of a spider – creating a decoy.<sup>ix</sup>

Cuttlefish change their skin’s shape and color in order to camouflage themselves. They can make themselves look like coral, plants, sand or whatever else they may be close to. They can also rapidly and repeatedly change their skin color producing a visual effect similar to a moving strobe light. Cuttlefish can also shoot ‘ink’ (almost pure melanin) letting it spread in the water, or formed in a blob – approximately their own size – to serve as a decoy to confuse predators.<sup>x</sup> (The blob is held together by mucus).

Geckos have hairs on the bottom of their feet which are so small that they must be viewed through an electron-microscope. The hairs connect to flat surfaces (like glass) through molecular bonding (van der Waals’ force) enabling the gecko to walk up, down or upside-down a perfectly clean window.

Bombardier Beetles produce and use ‘Rocket-Fuel’ as a weapon. It explodes, ejects, boils, produces smoke and can kill a predator when fired. Here is an explanation of this amazing creature and its’ ability – *as written on Wikipedia*.

*Bombardier Beetles are ground beetles . . . which are most notable for the defense mechanism that gives them their name: when disturbed, they eject a hot noxious chemical spray from the tip of the abdomen with a popping sound.*

*The spray is produced from a reaction between two hypergolic chemical compounds, hydroquinone and hydrogen peroxide, which are stored in two reservoirs in the beetle's abdomen.*

*[Wikipedia: Hypergolic propellant.]*

*A hypergolic propellant is a rocket propellant combination used in a rocket engine, whose components spontaneously ignite when they come into contact with each other. The two propellant components*

usually consist of fuel and an oxidizer. The main advantages of hypergolic propellants are that they can be stored as liquids at room temperature and that engines which are powered by them are easy to ignite reliably and repeatedly. Common hypergolic propellants are difficult to handle due to their extreme toxicity or corrosiveness. In contemporary usage, the terms "hypergol" and "hypergolic propellant" usually mean the most common such propellant combination: dinitrogen tetroxide plus hydrazine.

When the solutions hydroquinone and hydrogen peroxide reach the vestibule<sup>xi</sup> (reaction chamber), catalysts<sup>xii</sup> facilitate (aid) the decomposition of the hydrogen peroxide and the oxidation of the hydroquinone. Heat from the reaction brings the mixture to near the boiling point of water (212 degrees F. / 100 degrees C.) and produces gas that drives the ejection. The damage caused can be fatal to attacking insects. Some bombardier beetles can direct the spray in a wide range of directions.

#### Mechanism of defense:

When the beetle feels threatened it opens a valve which allows the aqueous (watery) solution from the reservoir to reach the vestibule (reaction chamber).

This reaction is very exothermic (external/heat), and the released energy raises the temperature of the mixture to near 100 °C, vaporizing about a fifth of it. The resultant pressure buildup forces the entrance valves from the reactant storage chambers to close, thus protecting the beetle's internal organs. The boiling, foul-smelling liquid is expelled violently through an outlet valve, with a loud popping sound.

The beetles' chambers store enough hydroquinone and hydrogen peroxide to allow the beetle to release its chemical spray roughly 20 times. In some cases this is enough to kill a predator. The main component of the beetle spray is 1,4-benzoquinone, an irritant to the eyes and the respiratory system of vertebrates.

The flow of reactants into the reaction chamber and subsequent ejection occur in a series of about 70 pulses, at a rate of about 500 pulses per second. The whole sequence of events takes only a fraction of a second. These pulsations are caused by repeated micro-explosions which are the results of the continuous pressure on the reservoir and the oscillatory opening and closing of the valve that controls access to the reaction chamber. This pulsed mechanism is beneficial for the beetles' survival because the system uses pressure instead of muscles to eject the spray at a constant velocity, saving the beetle energy. Also, the reintroduction of new reactants into the vestibule where enzymes are stored, reduces the temperature

*of the chamber, thereby protecting the peroxidases<sup>xiii</sup> and catalases<sup>xiv</sup> from thermal denaturation.<sup>xv</sup>*

*Typically the beetle turns its body so as to direct the jet towards whatever triggered the response. The gland openings of some African bombardier beetles can swivel through 270° and thrust between the insect's legs, discharging the fluid in a wide range of directions with considerable accuracy.*

*[FYI. Youtube has videos showing the spray being fired between the beetles' legs – getting the spray all over its' legs – obviously with no negative effects on the beetle.]*

Fire breathing dragons. 'Leviathan' (identified in the Bible) was a water dwelling, fire breathing reptile which lived in the past. Here is a description of it, given by God (its' Creator), during a discussion with a man named 'Job, who had obviously been around them. Understanding the biology and the chemistry of the Bombardier Beetle helps us to more easily grasp the attributes of Leviathan.

*"Can you pull in the leviathan with a fishhook or tie down his tongue with a rope? . . . No one is fierce enough to rouse him. Who then is able to stand against me? . . . His snorting throws out flashes of light; his eyes are like the rays of dawn. Firebrands stream from his mouth; sparks of fire shoot out. Smoke pours from his nostrils as from a boiling pot over a fire of reeds. His breath sets coals ablaze, and flames dart from his mouth. . . . Nothing on earth is his equal- a creature without fear. He looks down on all that are haughty; he is king over all that are proud." Job 41: 1,10,18-21,33-34*

Sauropod Dinosaurs. 'Behemoth' (identified in the Bible) was, in all probability, what we would call a 'Sauropod dinosaur' today. The word "dinosaur" (which means 'terrible lizard') was coined in 1842 by a paleontologist named Richard Owen. The word "Sauropod" (which refers to the largest dinosaur kind evidenced in the fossil record – the ones with long necks and long tails) was coined in 1878 by a paleontologist named Othniel Marsh. God (during a discussion with a man named "Job") referred to the behemoth as – "ranking first among the works of God" – and said that its' tail swayed like a cedar tree. It is logical, therefore, to assume that 'Behemoth' and 'Sauropod' refer to the same animal. Here is God's description of the Behemoth, which Job was obviously familiar with.

*"Look at the behemoth, which I made along with you and which feeds on grass like an ox. What strength he has in his loins, what power in the muscles of his belly! His tail sways like a cedar; the sinews of his thighs are close-knit. His bones are*

*tubes of bronze, his limbs like rods of iron. He ranks first among the works of God, yet his Maker can approach him with his sword.” Job 40:15-19*

## **THE MOST AMAZING CREATURES:<sup>xvi</sup>**

The most amazing creatures that God made (other than angels) are humans. We (humans) are not only capable of understanding electricity, water, bubbles, weapons, decoys, camouflage, molecules, rocket-fuel, fire, and countless other aspects of ‘creation,’ we are able to use them ourselves. The most amazing thing about humans, however, is not what God has enabled us to understand and to do, but rather, 'Who' we are like and why we exist. God created mankind in His image (like Himself)<sup>xvii</sup> so we could become His family. He then did the most amazingly loving thing He could ever do to make it happen! Here is what God says about this in the Bible:

## **THE MEANING OF LIFE AND THE WAY OF SALVATION:<sup>xviii</sup>**

God is an infinite, omnipresent and eternal Spirit<sup>xix</sup> – a non-physical being, who is unlimited by time,<sup>xx</sup> space<sup>xxi</sup> or matter.<sup>xxii</sup> He exists as a trinity – one God<sup>xxiii</sup> in three persons (Father, Son and Holy Spirit<sup>xxiv</sup>). At some point in eternity past, He decided that He wanted a bigger family to love. (Father, Son and Holy Spirit are family, but He wanted it larger.) In order to accomplish this, He would create a physical realm (the universe)<sup>xxv</sup> and a specific physical location (the earth)<sup>xxvi</sup> where He could place two physical people (one male and one female). These two people would be given the ability to physically pro-create, as would the generations after them. This would result in the birth of billions of people<sup>xxvii</sup> who would have the opportunity to join God’s family. Each of these people would be given a temporal physical body, a soul (thoughts, wills and emotions) and an eternal spirit.<sup>xxviii</sup> The soul and eternal spirit would be transferred (by God) into an eternal spiritual body at the point of physical death.<sup>xxix</sup> These people would also be given ‘free-will’— the ability to obey or disobey God, and the ability to accept or reject Him. Anything less would produce only puppets or robots.

Sadly, this freedom would result in these first two people choosing to disobey God —rejecting His authority and His right to be their God. This, in turn, would result in their children, grandchildren and all of the following generations (that’s us) to come into existence with a sinful nature.<sup>xxx</sup> We are born opposed to God, sinfully living as our own authority.<sup>xxxi</sup>

God, being omniscient,<sup>xxxii</sup> holy, perfect and just<sup>xxxiii</sup> – and the very epitome of love<sup>xxxiv</sup> – could never allow sin to go unpunished,<sup>xxxv</sup> but He could pay for our wrongdoing Himself. God, the Son, would step into His creation—into the physical realm—becoming a human.<sup>xxxvi</sup> (He would do this through the womb of a virgin,<sup>xxxvii</sup> so as to not inherit the sinful nature which is passed down through natural conception). He would then live a perfectly sinless life in the physical realm. During this time, He would teach people all about life and eternity, and how we can become His children. He would then allow Himself to be sacrificially punished<sup>xxxviii</sup> – beaten (more severely than any person ever has been)<sup>xxxix</sup> and ‘physically’ put to death – in order to take the justly required punishment for the sin of mankind.<sup>xl</sup> He would do this so we could be forgiven and become His children.<sup>xli</sup> (This is like a judge, who is the loving father of a repentant criminal, who pays a fine for his child: Justice is served, the father suffers, the child is forgiven and their love grows deeper.) Anyone who refuses to accept God’s love, lordship and sacrifice would have to pay for their own sins in Hell – forever!<sup>xlii</sup>

\* \* \* Regarding Hell, it must be forever!<sup>xliii</sup> Judgment cannot simply be ‘annihilation’ (live a life of evil then disappear). Without the fear of the Lord (the fear of eternal punishment),<sup>xliv</sup> nobody would choose His forgiveness, fatherhood, love and lordship (which must be received together). Nor would they choose to restrain their evil desires. People throughout time, would be as evil as the people who lived before the flood – at the time of Noah. (They had become so evil, that evil was the only thing that they ever thought about.<sup>xlv</sup>)

So God created humans to make us His children.<sup>xlvi</sup> This is why He made us like Himself<sup>xlvii</sup>—with thoughts, will and emotions; intellectual and relational; possessing speech and language; creative, industrious and artistic; with singing and laughter; a sense of morality and a desire to be loved. He made us this way, so we could understand and relate to Him, and have an intimate, intricate and ever-loving relationship with Him – in Paradise!

It will be Paradise, because when the last person who is going to accept salvation does so,<sup>xlviii</sup> God is going to make a new ‘perfect’ Heaven and a new ‘perfect’ Earth,<sup>xlix</sup> where we—His forgiven and ‘then made perfect’ children—will live with Him forever. (F.Y.I. The present heaven and earth were perfect until mankind sinned.<sup>l</sup>)

## **CONCLUSION:<sup>li</sup>**

**God is awesome, He's in control and He wants to love us forever.** He spoke the universe into existence,<sup>lii</sup> sustains it by His infinite power,<sup>liii</sup> and sovereignly rules it all<sup>liv</sup> – the most distant galaxies; the processes, production and functions of the earth; the affairs of man; the spiritual realm; time, space, matter energy and eternity. All this, so He could give us life, make us His family and love us forever.

**The Bible is God's message to, and primary means of communication with mankind and He keeps it correct!**<sup>lv</sup> It can be trusted on things which seem impossible (such as Rocket-Fuel Beetles and Fire Breathing Dragons), on matters which mankind can't explain (such as 'how' He creates<sup>lvi</sup>), when the whole world seems to be against it,<sup>lvii</sup> when great numbers of teachers (teaching The Theory of Evolution) say it isn't true,<sup>lviii</sup> and on all matters of life – temporal and eternal.

**Most of mankind hates<sup>lix</sup> God and is in rebellion against Him.** They hate the fact that He is Creator and we owe our existence to Him. They hate the fact that He provides for life on earth and we are dependent upon Him. They hate that He wants to be Lord – over everything that we think, do or say (so that we live and love like Him). And they hate the fact that He wants to be our Savior, that we are not perfect (not good enough) to live with Him in paradise. (((The world hates God for all the reasons that His children love Him!))) Because of this hatred, people do everything they can to keep Him out of their lives. They say He doesn't exist – 'the Theory of Evolution.' They create religions – as substitutes for a personal relationship with Him. They desire eternal life (apart from the Creator and Sustainer of life) and create imaginary ways to 'achieve' it – putting hope in science (to conquer death), doing good things (as if good erases bad), obeying rules and performing rituals (so they don't have to humble themselves), meditating and worshiping nature (as if altered states of consciousness can replace reality and a tree can guide them) or serving some false deity (because it's less demanding and more gratifying to a debased mind).

**The Theory of Evolution** – which could be aptly described as 'The Intellectual Rebellion of Man' – is one of the most obvious examples of mankind's revolt and chosen foolishness.<sup>lx</sup> While it is obviously false and easily disproved,<sup>lxi</sup> it is eagerly accepted as truth by millions (if not billions) of people. It is not only rebellion, it is also a blatant attack on the Bible! Unfortunately, while both God and His enemies understand this, many of His children do not. Look at the following quotes – from God and two different atheists – to see what I mean.

**God** – “For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths”. 2 Timothy 4:3-4 [“The Frog Prince” (fairy tale / myth): ‘Mother earth’ kissed an ugly frog and slowly, over millions of years, it evolved into a handsome prince.]

**Atheist – G. Richard Bozarth:** “It becomes clear now that the whole justification of Jesus’ life and death is predicated on the existence of Adam and the forbidden fruit he and Eve ate. Without the original sin, who needs to be redeemed? Without Adam’s fall into a life of constant sin terminated by death, what purpose is there to Christianity? None. . . . Christianity has fought, still fights, and will fight science to the desperate end over evolution, because evolution destroys utterly and finally the very reason Jesus’ earthly life was supposedly made necessary. Destroy Adam and Eve and the original sin, and in the rubble you will find the sorry remains of the son of god. Take away the meaning of his death. If Jesus was not the redeemer who died for our sins, and this is what evolution means, then Christianity is nothing!” G. Richard Bozarth, *American Atheist Magazine*, Feb., 1978.

**Atheist – H. G. Wells:** “If all the animals and man had been evolved in this ascendant manner; then there had been no first parents, no Eden, and no Fall. And if there had been no fall, then the entire historical fabric of Christianity, the story of the first sin and the reason for an atonement, upon which the current teaching based Christian emotion and morality, collapsed like a house of cards.” (Atheist - H.G. Wells, H.G., *The outline of history — being a plain history of life and mankind*, Cassell & Company Ltd, London, UK, (the fourth revision), Vol. 2, p. 616, 1925. / / (Herbert George Wells (1866–1946), mostly known as simply ‘H.G. Wells’, was a well-known pioneer of science fiction novels (*The Time Machine*, *War of the Worlds*), a prominent Fabian Socialist, historian and eugenicist.)

**God** – “... my people are destroyed from lack of knowledge.” Hosea 4:6



So – this is life and death, love and hate, truth and untruth, wisdom and foolishness, Heaven and Hell. This is also war!<sup>lxiii</sup> Before God created people, He also created angels – spiritual beings who – like Him and us are sentient (possessing thoughts, free-will and emotions) and eternal. Also, like us, they were created to love and serve their Creator. Sadly, the highest ranking one tried to exalt himself over God<sup>lxiv</sup> – convincing one-third of the other angels to join him.<sup>lxv</sup> They lost the war and will spend eternity burning in Hell. For now, however, God allows them to fight against His agenda on earth – presenting mankind with alternatives to every good thing that He wants mankind to do and to become. Sadly, this is required for humans to have free-will. For free-will to exist, there must not only be alternatives, they must be presented.

To learn all about this war, or to learn more about the subjects discussed in this article, check out the following resources on this website.

### **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES (available free on this website):**

“The Second Most Incredible Book about God, Life, Death, Heaven, Hell, Satan, the Theory of Evolution and The Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence” (accessed from the homepage).

“Why I Believe the Bible” (accessed from the homepage).

“True Brilliance, Evolution Exposed” (in the section, ‘Poetry with an Attitude’).

“Science, Science, Science and the Age of the Earth” (in this – “Did God Really Say?” section). [FYI – *The universe is about six-thousand years old.*]

“Dinosaurs Were on Noah’s Ark” (in this – “Did God Really Say?” section).

*SolidRockPoetry.com 'Christian Poetry with an Attitude and a Whole Lot More.'*





xxxixSo I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. Galatians 5:16,17

xxxixAll the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. Psalm 139:16 /// Jesus answered, "I tell you, Peter, before the rooster crows today, you will deny three times that you know me." Luke 22:34

xxxixHe is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he. Deuteronomy 32:4

xxxixThe LORD is righteous in all his ways and loving toward all he has made. Psalm 145:17 /// God is love. 1 John 4:16

xxxixFor the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23

xxxixIn the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. . . The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. John 1:1 & 14

xxxixTherefore the LORD himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. (Immanuel means "God with us.") Isaiah 7:14

xxxixBut he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. Isaiah 53:5

xxxixHe stepped into our world to be ridiculed, scorned, spit upon, slapped, punched in the face, pierced with thorns, beat with a staff, shredded with a whip, and to be physically nailed to a cross-- where He hung until He died--to take the justly-required punishment for all that we have done wrong. Ridiculed, beaten with staff, spit, thorns (Matthew 27:29,30) / Ridiculed, scorned (Matthew 27:39-42) / Spit, punched, slapped (Matthew 26:67) / Whipped (Matthew 27:26) / Nailed to cross (John 20:25)

xliFor Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit, 1 Peter 3:18

xliHow great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! 1 John 3:1

xliiWhoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him. John 3:36 /// The lake of fire is the second death. If anyone's name was not found written in the Book of Life, he was thrown into the lake of fire. Revelation 20:14,15

xliiiHe will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment rises forever and ever. Revelation 14:10,11



